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Georgia College's Student Newspaper

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INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TAKE GC AROUND THE WORLD

See Page 4 & 5



Photos courtesy of Patrick Steimer

NEWS

Library opens 24/7, SNAP in chaos, pg. 3

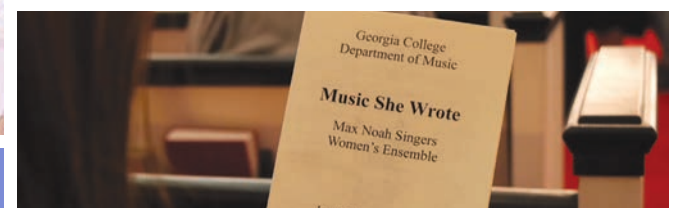
SPORTS



Coachless Sassy Cats take second, pg. 9

ARTS & LIFE

Music She Wrote, pg. 14





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Library atrium set to open 24 hours, SNAP disgruntled

**Brendan
Borders**
Staff Writer

Student Night Auxiliary Patrol (SNAP) drivers are objecting to extended nighttime shifts to result from the library atrium's upcoming transition to a 24-hour study space for students, effective March 25, 2018.

SNAP is a program at GC that allows students to request a safety escort by golf cart in the immediate vicinity of campus at night. It currently functions from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. Monday-Wednesday, 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. on Thursday and Friday and 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. on Saturdays.

When the library atrium's new hours go into effect, the library doors will lock at 10 p.m., requiring students to swipe their Bobcat Card. A SNAP officer will sit at a desk near the doors, equipped with a phone to call the police and a panic button in case of emergency.

These SNAP officers' shifts will run 12-4 a.m. and 4-8 a.m. With these extended hours, many SNAP drivers have found themselves wondering if they will keep their jobs at SNAP, while others are excited to have more hours to make more money.

"A lot of people were surprised, saying 'I don't want to do that,' but then a lot of other people were like 'cool more hours,'" said SNAP student supervisor Connor Kilch. "[People quitting] is not really the issue because we're looking to hire more people, because we're about to lose four or five seniors, so we will hire a new wave in the next month or so."

Junior Mark Chadwick, an environmental science major, said he does not mind the transition.

"It's just not too difficult of a job," Chadwick said. "Nice hours, I don't have any conflicts with class, and I enjoy the people I work with. [Drivers are upset] probably because they don't want to work an overnight shift with little incentive honestly."

Other drivers do not echo Chadwick's optimism.

"I'm not very happy about it," said junior Natalie Capps, a nursing major. "We have to work from 12 to four and four to eight, and I'm in nursing school, so I have to be at clinicals sometimes at six in the morning. There's really not a point for us to be there, in my opinion, because we don't have a connection to the police."

Junior Dylan Borst, an English major and a SNAP supervisor, said that SNAP supervisors are doing their best to accommodate employees amid the transition.

"Our goal for this atrium being opened 24-hours is kind of like to work as a team to make sure people don't get overloaded with

library hours," Borst said. "So potentially you would only have to work two library shifts every two weeks. And if they can't work the library shifts, they can tell us, and we can work around their schedule...and we're going to do our best to make sure everyone pitches in."

Borst said the SNAP drivers found out about the final decision like everyone else on campus.

"We knew [the opening of the atrium] would happen because Lieutenant Purvis had been communicating with us and the library about perhaps opening the library again," Borst said. "We did not know for sure until the library sent us an email informing us they would need more officers to work more hours, and then Mike sent out the official email to everyone."

Fellow SNAP officer Sean Montgomery, a senior mass communication major, agreed.

"It's crazy because they didn't even ask us," Montgomery said. "Personally, I don't think enough people use [the atrium]. 'We work nine to one, and there's literally maybe 20 people in the library. As for us as students, we should have definitely had more input on the situation, than it just being passed and hearing news about it, without giving any input or knowing that it was going to happen.'"

Lieutenant Gary Purvis, the GC Public Safety officer who oversees SNAP, said that part of the process will be hiring new officers to cover the hours and that he was notified beforehand.

"They did tell me we had to do the new hours but asked if we would be able to and willing to do it," Purvis said. "I asked our SNAP supervisor, and he stated that we should be able to. We are in the process of hiring two new SNAP officers to aid in this."

Capps said that SNAP has only six radios, and that one of those is not working, so it has been standard practice to not bring a radio to the library.

Purvis also mentioned the broken radio, stating that it does not hinder operations and that it will be fixed.

"Unfortunately repairs like this don't happen overnight," Purvis explained. "We are going through our budget request right now for the next school year, and we will ensure to request funds for new radios to ensure we have extras in cases where they are damaged."

It should also be noted that the radios used by SNAP officers and the SNAP dispatcher on duty are not cheap, running upwards of \$800 per radio. They are the same radios used by GC Public Safety officers, as well as the Milledgeville Police Department officers. They have a built-in scanner and can talk directly to the police in the event of an emergency.

Foster, however, as a SNAP employee, doesn't think this is a sufficient solution.

"As of right now, we don't carry a police radio," Foster said. "But if there was an



Christian Brook / Staff Photographer

A SNAP employee will be on duty in the library from 12-8 a.m. when it opens 24/7.

emergency situation at the library, we would actually be pretty powerless to do anything because one, we don't have the radio, and two, all we could do is call the dispatch at GCPD, with the normal emergency phone number, which anyone could do."

Foster said the shift is SOMETHING because the officer on duty gets paid to simply sit by the door, but he doesn't feel that having a SNAP officer at the library helps anyone.

"I don't know if SGA considered the fact that SNAP people come from a large variety of majors of varying difficulties, varying schedules," said freshman Ben Foster, a chemistry major. "I mean we're students too. It's just very hard for me to believe that SGA did this decision because I did an overnight shift during finals week when the atrium went 24/7, and after 1 a.m., it got pretty dead."

Foster said he witnessed periods when he was the only person in the library, even during finals week, so he couldn't imagine that people would use the atrium during those hours when it's not finals week.

However, SGA President Mike Muller said students had been telling him that they needed a 24-hour study space on campus, so the library atrium's designation as such is the highlight of his administration.

"What I did personally was bring the idea to the administration," Muller said. "We showed them surveys and things like that, and I brought that to the administration. The administration from then on out had to decide

how they were going to implement it."

GC Provost Kelli Brown confirmed Muller's statement.

"The SGA President Mike Muller came forward and requested that we take a look again, because we had done this a couple years ago, in keeping the library open 24/7," Brown said. "We looked at the previous data and decided that we didn't have all the information we needed to make an informed decision, so we decided to reopen it again 24/7."

Brown said her goal was to collect very specific data to help administration understand when the space is being used, as well as high-traffic times. The purpose of reopening the library from March 25, 2018, to the end of finals week in Spring 2018, is to collect this data to then make an informed decision about how long the library should stay open in the future.

"The library director worked with the SNAP coordinator to arrange for SNAP, and then I provided the resources to pay for SNAP officers during that time, and that came out of my budget," Brown said.

According to SGA's Facebook page, the new hours of the bottom floor library atrium will begin March 25, 2018. The new space will be open 24 hours, Monday through Thursday. On Fridays, it will close at 6 p.m., reopen Saturdays at 10 a.m. and close at 6 p.m. that Saturday night. On Sundays, the library will open at noon and will not close.

GC dines abroad from within Magnolia Ballroom

International students present the 33rd annual International Dinner

**Eleonora
Matina**
Contributing Writer

Over 120 students had the opportunity to enjoy a night filled with food, dances, colors and performances from all over the world at the International Dinner on Saturday, March 10.

The GC International Club and the International Education Center began preparing for the event more than three months in advance. The dinner coordinator, Jarris Lanham, worked hard to organize the event.

While setting up Magnolia Ballroom the day before the dinner, students were laughing and joking together, the feeling of true friendship present in the room.

The sensation of feeling at home was also perceivable. Despite living oceans away from where they grew up, the international students found a sense of home with each other. Many guests come back every year because they build strong connections with the students and are happy to see them perform and share their culture.

"The whole idea behind the International Dinner is celebrating diversity and cultures from all over the world," Lanham said. "I love working with the students and seeing how much they all care about this. My favorite part is the evening itself, after many hours of hard

work and organizing are done. The goal is to [work] out all the kinks, so the students can enjoy themselves while putting on the event."

The theme for this year's dinner was Latin America. Volunteers filled the room with colorful handmade paper flowers. Students carefully created yellow, pink and bright blue decorations to put all over the room.

Guests were immersed in the Latin American fusion atmosphere. Latin American songs and other foreign melodies played throughout the first part of the dinner while guests were getting food.

Magnolia Ballroom was filled with strong scents and foreign flavors as guests and participants tried a variety of foods from over 50 countries while watching students perform on stage.

The food had been passionately prepared by the international students. Taiwanese student Christine Huang prepared wontons, a type of dumpling made with pork, for more than 200 people.

"I have been cooking since this morning at 11, and I think I will have to continue at least until midnight," Huang said on Friday night before the dinner.

A food committee was put together in order to help Huang and all the other students gather the necessary ingredients and spices that they needed for their dishes. The night before the event, the committee helped students find available kitchens where they could prepare their food. The committee also helped transport the food to Magnolia Ballroom.

Huang participated in the talent show as well. She and three friends from Russia, South Korea and Thailand decided create a dance performance that represented each of their cultures. During the dance, people felt as if they traveled across the world in just a couple of minutes.

"We usually have about 10 acts, so we can't take all interested students, unfortunately," Lanham said. "After the acts are selected, they practice on their own for a few weeks, and then we have a dress rehearsal the night before the dinner. The last few years, we've been abundantly blessed with talented students. Tonight, a faculty member asked if we require all incoming international students to sing or dance. She was joking, of course, but we do have some very talented students."

Guests enjoyed a talent show and a fashion show organized entirely by the international students.

The International Club is comprised of both American and international students. Many American students have joined the organization to expand their knowledge of new cultures and to make friends from all over the world.

Christopher Nedza, a student from Watkinsville, Ga., performed in the first half of the show.



Patrick Steimer / Staff Photographer

The dinner featured a talent show with performances from many countries.

"I joined the club because every day I enjoy being able to talk to different people with different backgrounds," Nedza said.

Nedza impressed the audience with his piano performance during the talent show.

"This is the first time I participate in such an amazing event," Nedza said. "I've been preparing my performance for about three months. I have three songs that I want to play, and I just decide at the moment which one I want to play first. I don't really have a set plan."

Susie Ramage, one of the International Club's advisors, said that the dinner is one of her favorite events to be a part of.

"I'm the lucky one," Ramage said. "I get

to be part of this and get to know so many amazing and talented students. We all work extremely hard for this, and it's always such a joy being able to see how the night turns out and receive compliments from all the guests."

The event brought members of the local community and the International Club together. Guests could see the passion and effort that the International Club put into the dinner.

The International Dinner raises funds for scholarships for international students, which help them study at GC. The event also helps them feel more at home by sharing their culture with the GC and Milledgeville community.

**Check out The
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Dinner!**



EMILY MCCLURE, EDITOR
MARCH 14 - APRIL 3, 2018 ASHLEY BOYLE, ASST. EDITOR

INTERNATIONAL DINNER 2018



Patrick Steimer / Staff Photographer

Legal drug gains popularity in midst of opioid epidemic

Grayson See
Contributing Writer

A legal plant drug has been gaining popularity in Milledgeville due to the growing problem of opioid addiction, but some law enforcement officials warn that it may not be completely safe.

The plant known as Kratom, which can be purchased by anyone over 18, is most often taken by addicts trying to end opioid and heroin addictions. However, it is also used recreationally and used by some with ADHD hoping to minimize symptoms.

“It helps so much with sleep...It calms me down and helps me not worry.”

- Zack Tucker

Bunty Panjwani, a manager at Pipe Dreams, a Milledgeville store specializing in smoking and vaping supplies, said that Kratom alone makes up about 10 percent of the store’s sales.

“It is getting a little bit more popular,” Panjwani said. “The main cause is [it

can be used] for natural pain relief, and that’s what people are needing to calm their nerves down and anxiety and stress. The people who are just older, vets and stuff, like I said, they just want more of a natural way than having to be on pills.”

The safety of Kratom is not fully known. Because of its similarities to opioids such as heroin and Oxycontin, some in medicine and criminal justice are warning against its use, including Commander Wesley Nunn of the Ocmulgee Drug Task Force.

“We have enough stuff to be addicted to,” Nunn said. He added that just because something is legal does not mean people should go take it, and that, if Kratom is similar to opioids, it should be made illegal.

Nunn also expressed how big of a problem opioid abuse has been in his jurisdiction. Nunn said that, while prescription pills have a larger presence, heroin has been found in Milledgeville as well.

Zack Tucker, a sophomore at GMC and golf cart driver for Station on McIntosh, spoke out about his use of Kratom.

“I have ADHD, so I’m always staying up late, and when I take ADHD medication, I stay up almost until the sun rises,” Tucker said. “So with Kratom, I’ve taken it, and it helps so much with sleep...From what I [have] experienced, it’s very relaxing. It calms me down and helps me not worry.”

Tucker said that he is not concerned about the

risk of addiction because he thinks he is taking the drug responsibly.

Consuming the leaves of the Kratom plant affects the brain’s opioid receptors. Its two primary components, mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, have very similar effects to standard opioids including pain-relief, physical addiction and withdrawals, according to the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association.

While it is certain that Kratom is addictive, how much so is unclear. Kratom’s effects are typically much less intense than those of standard opioids. However, in the plant’s native Southeast Asia, many countries, including Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam, have banned Kratom’s use due to its rampant abuse.

Some states and cities, including Alabama and the city of Sarasota, Florida, have banned the substance. But Kratom is still currently legal for adult purchase in 44 states and can commonly be found in many smoke shops and gas stations.

In 2016, the FDA considered emergency scheduling Kratom, which would have banned the plant and labeled it a Schedule 1 substance alongside heroin, marijuana and LSD for two years, but considerable public outcry and protests from Kratom users and supporters postponed their decision.

However, the FDA is still actively researching Kratom and considering how it will regulate the substance.



Grayson See / Contributing Photographer

Kratom is produced in both powder and capsule form.

Coding wizards win contest



Patrick Steimer / Staff Photographer

Freshmen computer science majors Hawke Kuehne, Emory Lindsey and Adam Bachman won a computer programming contest at Mercer University, with the support of Professor Gita Phelps. Hawke said he is grateful for the opportunity to explore his major.

“I’m glad that we were allowed to compete, as it solidified my belief in my decision to be a computer science major,” Hawke said. “I hope to compete again next year.”



UNSUNG HEROES

Karvasha Brown

**Wilson
Roberts**
Staff Writer

Students who have visited the Bobcat Food Court under the Maxwell Student Union building anywhere from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on a weekday have likely talked to Karvasha Brown. She greets everyone with a sunny smile, and students often make a point of stopping by to say hello.

"Karvasha has been really kind and sweet to me every since I've met her a year ago," said Deanna Figueriredo, a co-worker alongside Brown. "She goes out of her way to help me with my job. Sometimes trays that need cleaning start stacking up, and she will do it without me asking for help. It's really nice."

Brown explained that she lives by the saying, "Be the best you can be."

"The pastor at my church is a very influential person for me," Brown said. "He makes me want to be the best me I can be because no one can beat me at being myself. We are all different, and that isn't something be ashamed about. I tell that to the students that need to hear it, too."

Brown's positive nature exists outside of

her work life as well. Her husband agrees with her customers and coworkers, saying that her approach to others makes her pleasure to be around.

"If I had to describe Karvasha in a few words, it would be as lovable, hardworking, dependable and trustworthy," said Leconar Brown Jr., who has been married to Karvasha Brown for four years.

Sophomore Essence Darden, a regular at the food court, only has positive things to say about Brown.

"I often go to Chick-fil-A when I feel bad about something, and if I see Karvasha, I can trust her to make me feel better," Darden said. "She is just so positive and makes sure I feel good about school, work or life."

Brown uses her position to encourage students to live authentically, saying that people should be who they are, not who they wish to be.

"Many students try to be someone they aren't," Brown said. "They try to imitate what they consider to be popular, and that isn't who they are. It pains me to see them do that to themselves."

Brown also said she believes that her position puts her in a unique position in students' lives.

"I'm not a parent figure or a friend that will judge them," Brown said. "I'm impartial and gonna try to make them feel better, but it



Christian Brook / Staff Photographer

Brown serves many students at lunchtime each day at the Subway counter.

doesn't always end up that way. Sometimes me trying to help makes them feel worse, and that sucks, but you can't always fix every problem."

A Columbus native, Brown has lived in Milledgeville for 21 years. When her previous job at Amedisys Home Health and Hospice Care ended in January 2017, she started looking for another job. She was referred to the Bobcat Food Court by Tabitha Franklin, her god-sister, who also works in The Max.

Brown said she tries to be as nice as possible to co-workers and students, but some employees make it difficult for her.

"I haven't had any cases of incredibly rude students or people coming into my work area, but I have had a few employees not doing their job up to our standard," Brown said. "It's really rare, but I have had to tell employees to be more attentive. I understand their situation since I've worked in their position before, but they have to stay attentive while they work."

Brown's previous boss recognized that her diligence was an asset.

"My previous boss encouraged me to apply for a manager position," Brown said. "They believed that my friendliness and positive nature would help me lead people to be excited to come to work."

Due to her position in the Bobcat Food Court and her constant interactions with students of different majors and years, she has a unique insight.

"Any time a student comes in with a sulking expression, I tell them to cheer up," Brown said. "Sulking doesn't get anything



Christian Brook / Staff Photographer

done but waste time. If they feel like they can't keep on the path they chose, I tell them to keep going. If they hit rock bottom, the only way is up. I have had students that openly acknowledged they have partied hard before a test, and then come in and be like, 'I failed that test,' while also talking about their night of drinking. When that happens, I tell them that they should have studied more and not have gone out. Sometimes they need a guiding hand that isn't related by blood."

Brown said that GC has not only offered her a job but has also improved her as a person.

"The job never gets boring because of the people I talk to on a daily basis," Brown said. "Whether it is students or co-workers, it is full of laughter, and that laughter is what keeps me going. When the job gets super hectic, smiling and laughing through the rush is what lets me continue doing what I love, and that's making people happy."

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Sassy Cats take 2nd at PBC without adviser

Lindsay Stevens
Staff Writer

The Sassy Cats Dance Team competed and won second place in the PBC Spirit Competition at USC-Aiken on Feb. 25, all without an adviser.

Their recognized student organization (RSO) adviser, Doris Henderson, quit Feb. 15, the Thursday before the competition.

Henderson left the dance team without an adviser, without uniforms and without knowledge of how to handle administrative tasks, several members of the team said.

"She definitely left us on bad terms, and it seemed like she was trying to sabotage us as well," said senior Olivia Freeman, co-captain of the Sassy Cats and a nursing major. "She didn't give us any information and also was trying not to give us the costumes we ordered, and she completely stopped talking to the captain and [me]. She made it difficult to succeed."

Henderson could not be reached for a comment.

Bert Rosenberger, GC's director of recreational sports, said while it isn't uncommon for advisers to quit, it is uncommon for them to quit in the middle of the season.

"We often have turnover in advisers from year to year due to various circumstances, but it is uncommon for it to occur during the middle of the year like this," Rosenberger said.

Sassy Cats captain Jennifer Harris, a sophomore exercise science major, said she believes Henderson quit because she felt out of the loop and excluded from important decisions the captains were making for the team.

"She said it was because she felt she wasn't being included in all of the decisions, but part of that was because she was going through a lot, so she wasn't really present at practices and stuff," Harris said. "I had to make decisions for the team in the heat of the moment, so she was hurt by that."

Because the Sassy Cats are an RSO, Henderson didn't have the same responsibilities as a coach.

"Coaches are more involved in the sport specific training side," Rosenberger said. "An adviser helps clubs navigate the administrative and policy side of being an RSO."

The Sassy Cats contacted GC's cheerleading coach Kirstie Murner, who agreed to act as an adviser on their trip and handle administrative tasks.

"We already had our routine together," Harris said. "So we talked to the cheer coach, and she took on the responsibility of being the adviser for our trips and handling administrative tasks."

Along with leaving the team days before the competition, Henderson attempted to take the costumes they ordered and told the team members to order their own.

"She had our costumes, so we had to battle with her about that," Harris said. "She ended up letting us use them, but it was just worrisome because it was so close, and she told us we had to order our own costumes three days before we had to leave."

Rosenberger said that many club sports advisers buy uniforms for their team and then later get reimbursed by the school.

"Typically, [Henderson] would buy things for the club with her own money, and then she would get reimbursed from the club or school," Rosenberger said. "This is not uncommon for a club adviser."

Once at the competition, the Sassy Cats found out that their coach hadn't turned in some of the registration forms, which almost prevented them from competing.

"When we went to the competition, there were things like verification of the music and register forms that we didn't know anything about," Freeman said. "She literally left us and didn't say a word about it, but we were able to pull through and get through it."

Though the road to second place was more difficult than they had hoped for, the team is proud of their trophy.

"Overall, the team really had each other's backs and made sure everyone needed to be doing what they were doing and helping each other with difficult sections," said junior Taylor Luedy, Sassy Cats dancer and psychology major. "On this team, we really are a family, and times like this are when it truly shows."



Courtesy of GC Sports Information

The Sassy Cats, who took home second place at the PBC Spirit Championships on Feb. 25 at USC-Aiken, provide halftime entertainment at GC's Homecoming basketball game.

COACH GRODECKI'S PERFECT PLAYER

Softball head coach Jamie Grodecki combined her top player's strengths to create her ideal perfect player for the Bobcats this season.

Softball IQ:

Amber Coy

"She does the pre-pitch thought and understands the situations. She knows her game and doesn't try to be the athlete she's not."

Arm Strength:

Sarah Couch

"She throws it the hardest from the outfield to the infield."

Clutch:

Holland Coursey

"She's just clutch. It comes natural and she gets the job done."

Speed:

Deja Lester

"I didn't recruit them slow. The quickness gets done during the strength and conditioning and in the weight room."

Power Hitter:

Hannah Coursey

"When she puts the ball on the ball she hits it hard."

Eye At The Plate:

Amber Coy

"She's patient and she doesn't chase pitches. She knows her pitch and she makes adjustments every plate appearance."

Best Fielder:

Baylee Hall

"She's a middle infielder who can play second or shortstop and get the job done. She's played long enough to know the situations and when to attack the ball in play or when to hang back for an easy out."

Baserunning:

Amber Coy

"It's hard to teach running the bases instinctively, and I know Amber won't ever run me out of an inning."



Thomas takes home PBC Freshman of the Year

**Caroline
Snider**
Staff Writer

For the second time in three seasons, a GC men's basketball player has brought home the award of Peach Belt Conference Freshman of the year.

Following in the footsteps of teammate Isaac Thomas who won the award at the end of the 2015-2016 season, the 6-foot-1-inch guard Jordan Thomas of Conyers, Ga. was named PBC Freshman of the year following his outstanding performance during the 2017-2018 campaign.

Jordan Thomas, an exercise science major, attended Heritage High School where he recorded 1,000 career points.

GC assistant coach Ryan Aquino recruited Thomas in October 2016. Thomas said the genuine people and nice facilities helped him in his decision making of committing to GC.

As a freshman, Thomas played in every game this season and led the team in minutes per game and points per game. He scored an average of 13.7 points per game and played an average of 32.4 minutes each game.

"He is a natural scorer," Gainous said. "I was proud that he had such a good year playing in a position



Courtesy of GC Sports Information

After winning Freshman of the Year in 2017-2018, Thomas expects to be more efficient offensively next season.

that he's never played before. Some games he played 40 minutes, and that is really challenging. If he wasn't physically ready for that, I wouldn't have done it. He goes full speed at everything he does, and I appreciate that."

Despite leading GC in scoring this season, Thomas was challenged early on, as he changed positions

early in the season. He started as a shooting guard but shifted positions selflessly after the starting point guard Desmond Mitchell-LaFlam broke his ankle after the fourth game.

Thomas said the adversity of changing positions was challenging in the beginning.

"The first few games were hard,

and I was nervous because I never played that position," Thomas said. "I didn't do that good either, and I had a lot of turnovers. I started practicing more at that position and getting comfortable. Then it became easier with the help of my coaches and their confidence in me."

When Thomas started preseason workouts, he was shocked at how much his hard work paid off.

"Basketball and preseason conditioning was really hard," Thomas said. "But I learned that I was more fit than I thought."

Head coach Mark Gainous said he was overly pleased with Thomas' fitness.

"You could tell he spent a lot of time during the summer conditioning, weightlifting and playing," Gainous said. "He physically prepared himself in the summer to be ready to have a good season. He was one of the most physically fit players we've ever had here at GC."

Thomas' hard work ethic and toughness undoubtedly helped him this season.

"It's cool to win PBC Freshman of the Year," Thomas said. "But I have to stay humble and still work because a lot of people in their sophomore season get in a slump or get too relaxed, and I can't do that because that will only push me back. I have to keep working."

Thomas gives his mom and grandma credit for his success.

"They always come to every game, even the away games," he said. "They are my support system,

and they keep me going."

Gainous said that Thomas is an easy-going, fun and loving person but very competitive on the court.

"He can flip that switch, which I really like," Gainous said.

Thomas also has a strong relationship with his teammates. Teammate and former co-PBC Freshman of the Year Isaac Thomas said that Jordan is a really nice guy and likes to hang out with his teammates. The elder Thomas explained that earning the PBC Freshman of the Year award takes a year of hard work.

"Jordan definitely deserved it," Isaac said. "He was the best freshman that I saw playing, and he stepped up and became a leader."

Gainous has high expectations for the reigning freshman of the year next year.

"I think he can be one of the best players to ever play here," Gainous said. "The challenge for Jordan is to be more efficient. If Jordan can get up to shooting 45 to 50 percent from the floor, it can make our team a lot better. He will be moved back to his natural position next year, and I expect him to be an All-Conference player moving forward."

Thomas' goals for next season are to gain more muscle and get his shooting percentage higher.

"I want to get stronger and work on every aspect of my game," Thomas said. "I want to work on shooting, passing and ball handling. I want my teammates to work on their skills too, so we can all be better next year."

Youth keeping GC men's basketball hopeful for future

**Elyssa
Gerber**
Staff Writer

GC men's basketball did not make the Peach Belt Conference Tournament this season, but the team and coaches learned what improvements need to be made as a team and as individuals.

The Bobcats ended their season with a final record of 11-17.

"We were a young team with a lot of players

getting used to the freedom, adjustment and coaches in a college sport environment," said assistant coach Dwight Anderson. "I believe it was truly a learning experience this season, and they will all improve going into next year."

The team knew it was going to need to work hard after losing their point guard Desmond Mitchell-LaFlam.

"Dez broke his ankle at the fourth game this season," said head coach Mark Gainous. "I think the team did a pretty good job without having a primary

point guard and a team leader for 24 games."

The team is mostly composed of freshmen and sophomores. The team is expected to have better chemistry together after developing more through the spring, summer and fall.

"The season did not go as we wanted, but we had a fun experience with winning streaks and losing streaks," said freshman Jordan Thomas. "Next season, I think we will improve our chemistry and know more about what we do well and what we don't do so well."

The team has grown together and will continue to do so, which will be one of the biggest contributing factors on the developing team.

"After having this prior experience in the Peach Belt, I think the majority of our guys returning will show a lot of improvement from that alone," Gainous said. "Our top five three-point shooters were all freshmen, so the skill set is there. We will change up our style of play a little bit and play faster next year, but it's that experience that will really make a difference."

Gainous has made an



Courtesy of GC Sports Information

Gainous mentors his young team during a timeout.

impact on the new players and helped them adjust to being college athletes. The players have learned to listen to Gainous, both on and off

the court.

"He is definitely very hard on us, but we all know that he really cares," Thomas said. "We trust that he will always

GC coaches tell what makes an ideal leader

**Emmy
Cooper**
Staff Writer

From the field to the court to the track, a leader is someone who embodies the ability to always put 100 percent into their team.

Head women's volleyball coach Gretchen Krumdieck said that in order to find a leader, you need to watch how the players interact with each other.

"You need to see who is going to step up and take charge, even in little things," Krumdieck said. "A leader is someone who is driven, someone that has goals, somebody that really wants everyone to exceed and not just themselves."

This volleyball season, Krumdieck said there were three players who really stepped up: senior Chandler Ewaldsen and juniors Kayla Brockway and Taylor Svehla.

"They all are very passionate about our sport and about our team," Krumdieck said. "They all lead in their own way. Chandler is like our team mom, and she is a great listener. Kayla is quieter and reserved but direct [and] to the point. Taylor is more aggressive and very passionate. She wears her heart on her sleeve."

Krumdieck said that the difference in the girls' leadership styles work well together and are very effective. The team responds very well.

Head women's tennis coach Steve Barsby said that work ethic and confidence best embodies a leader on his team.

"We don't name a team captain," Barsby said. "You grow into the leadership role because I do not think everyone is meant to be a captain. I look to the person who is working extremely hard, is very committed and is very team oriented as a person and a leader."

This spring season, Barsby said that senior Jena Kelly has really stepped up as a leader.

"She works hard, she's committed, she's very positive with the team, never in a bad mood and is very driven," Barsby said.

Head women's soccer coach Hope Clark has found that there are



Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

Senior volleyball player Chandler Ewaldsen (green jersey) acts as a coach and a team mom for the volleyball team.

tangible and intangible qualities of being a leader.

"There are a lot of different facets involved," Clark said. "Whether it's from their commitment level, so doing what it takes day in and day out to perform on and off the field. Someone who is very strong academically, so they have good time management skills and [are] setting a good example from a role model perspective."

Clark said that a role model

should give 100 percent, has no off days and trains hard during the off season.

"From the intangible aspect, I think there's an understanding from a leader of the bigger picture," Clark said. "Supporting the mission and the values of the program and get those to follow."

Like the women's tennis program, the women's soccer team also does not name team captains. The team appoints a leadership

group and designates specific roles using each girl's greatest strength.

"Ashley Graham is the on-field leader," Clark said. "She is the one who sets the tempo and is the thermostat for the team come game day. Then we've got our positive leaders, so someone like Amanda Bartholomew. . . Finally, we have our communicator, Savannah Devalle, so she is the median between me and the team. And we have Anya Mancinelli who handles

all of our organization. So, any time we need schedules of group functions, I go to her."

Whether its appointing a captain or using each teammate's individual strengths to lead the team, coaches at GC continue to find the best leadership style for their teams and promote a positive playing environment.

"We preach that this is your team," Clark said. "This is my program."

Loving others through art

Kaylin Martinko

Co-Arts & Life Editor

On any given day, there is a high probability that Mariza Van Zyl can be found within the walls of Ennis Hall, GC's art building. An advocate for the arts, the senior psychology major plans to pursue a career as a child life specialist and art therapist.

"I'm really passionate about acceptance and people loving people where they're at," Van Zyl said.

To her, a child life specialist is the bridge between doctors, nurses and children. She plans to use her minors in creative art therapy and photography to provide creative outlets for the children she will work with.

"I'm really passionate about acceptance and people loving people where they're at."

-Mariza Van Zyl

Van Zyl is passionate about this idea of creative expression and using it to help others become more aware of mental health. She is currently working on a photography project that focuses on the realities of battling mental illness, as well as the victories that come through it.

Van Zyl battled depression throughout middle and high school and uses her experience to grow the conversation about mental illness.

"I'm very much an advocate for talking about mental health and getting help," Van Zyl said. "When you talk about it, you find out that you have so much in common with people. You're never alone in your struggle."

Another thing Van Zyl is incredibly enthusiastic about is her faith in God. This is something she said motivates and orchestrates every moment of her life.

"God has put my passions in my life," Van Zyl said. "I can't explain why I want to do what I want to do without bringing it back to the Lord; every good thing comes from him."

"She knows what makes her happy, and she's not afraid to do that and be a little weird," said one of Van Zyl's best friends, Olivia Johnston. "She's very sure [of] who she is and doesn't shy away from that. She goes out of her way to love people well and be encouraging."

Her friends describe her as "unapologetically herself." Van Zyl said this freedom largely arose due to her unique childhood.

When she was only six, Van Zyl

and her family found themselves on a plane from South Africa to Atlanta. Growing up in these two very different places, Van Zyl said her family has always been different from the typical American, nuclear household.

The cultural differences between South Africa and the U.S. have become more apparent to Van Zyl as she has grown older, especially as her family tries to incorporate their African ancestry into their everyday lives.

"Whenever I tell people I'm from Africa, they're like, 'Oh, did you ride a giraffe to school?'" Van Zyl said. "I'm like, 'No! It has cities, too.' But because my family is from South Africa, I have a passion for other cultures. My parents always taught me to eat weird foods and be friends with people of all different ethnicities and cultures."

Van Zyl said the values her family emphasized have pushed her to passionately pursue others. She considers herself an intentional friend and prefers to spend her free time with a friend by her side.

Over this past summer, Van Zyl interned in Clarkston, Georgia, where she was able to create relationships with refugees from all around the world.

Clarkston is the most racially diverse square mile in the entire country. The city is home to over 90 different ethnic groups and nearly 14,000 people.

"We go into neighborhoods and put on a sort of VBS [Vacation



Kaylin Martinko / Staff Photographer

Senior Mariza Van Zyl uses her minor in creative art therapy for good.

Bible School] for the kids," Van Zyl said. "We were just essentially loving on these kids. We would also do English as a second language [for the mothers], and we spent a lot of time in their homes and going to doctor's appointments with them."

Van Zyl said that one day, she hopes to tuck all she's experienced into her back pocket and travel to India to be a full-time missionary and use the arts to create intentional and in-depth relationships with others.



Greta Van Fleet's "From the Fires"

By Benjamin Monckton

With a sound that listeners will likely misplace as a lost rock hit of the 70s, Greta Van Fleet is an anomaly in the atmosphere of modern music with their new double EP "From the Fires."

The first song on the EP, "Safari Song," opens with a distorted guitar riff and a rock 'n' roll howl. This yell is a staple for singer Jacob Kiszka, whose voice holds an uncanny resemblance to Led Zeppelin frontman Robert Plant.

Half-way through the album, "Highway Tune" beats the listener's eardrums with Kiszka's howls and screams. The banging drums and sloppy guitars are an ode to the energy of rock 'n' roll. When the

song ends, one might think, "Is rock 'n' roll back? I gotta call my dad."

The title track, "Black Smoke Rising," balances topical political themes with rock songwriting. The high pitched screams and an electrifying chorus are unforgettable.

Greta Van Fleet's sound is youthful and recognizable. It's a refreshing sound amid computer-generated bass drops and lyrics about unanswered texts. Rock purists will be satisfied with production of the music: Vintage Gibsons into Marshall amplifiers, bass cabinets larger than a full-grown man and the same drum kit used by John Bonham.

Quality or just a novelty? Original or a knock-off? Reviews of the band vary, with some critics claiming their sound is a ripoff of past legends, while other rave that their material clearly sets them apart from their peers.

Regardless of what others think, they are worth a listen. The 21-year-old musicians are currently on a sold-out tour, wowing audiences nationwide with their unique sound. They will be stopping in Atlanta to play the Shaky Knees Music Festival on May 5. If you're a fan of traditional rock music, you won't want to miss this.

MUSIC SHE WROTE

**Katie
O'Neal**
Staff Writer

The Max Noah Singers and the GC Women's Ensemble had a concert featuring music arranged by female composers at the First Baptist Church on Saturday, March 10.

The performance included many different works composed by women, as well as music

with texts penned by female writers. Poet Emily Dickinson, author and activist Helen Keller, poet and satirist Dorothy Parker and local celebrity novelist Flannery O'Connor were represented on the program.

"I like to hear the really good music the department offers," said sophomore Cole Markland, a music education major. "My favorite song was 'Through the Dark' with the words from Helen Keller because of the darker harmony and the way Helen Keller's life with everything she experienced came together."

The Women's Ensemble performed two

songs arranged by women who interned at a camp in Palembang, Sumatra during World War II.

"What I love most about this program is its thematic depth," said Dr. Dana Gorzelany-Mostak, assistant professor of music. "While love, flowers and fairies are represented, this program also positioned women as activists, trailblazers, agitators and even pirates."

The Max Noah Singers performed works by Emma Lou Diemer, Gwyneth Walker and Andrea Ramsey. They ended their program with "A Bridge of Peace," the song's southern U.S. premiere.

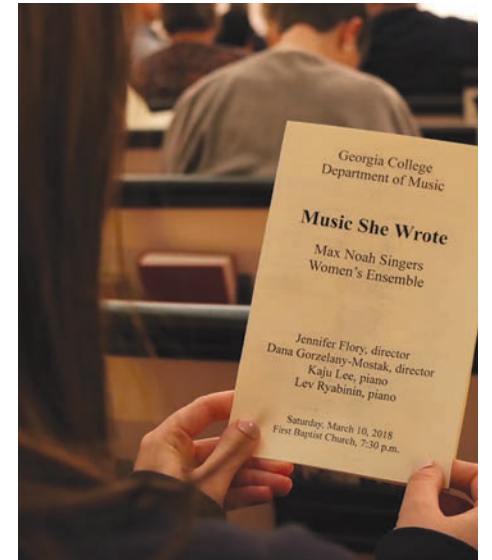
"I liked the last song, 'A Bridge of Peace,' because I think that peace between the nations is important, and I like the way the composer portrayed it in the music," said freshman Haley Hensley, an art major.

This concert was important as a part of confronting gender inequality.

"One theme that consistently emerges in these conversations is the idea of silence," said Gorzelany-Mostak. "That is to say, women's voices are frequently silenced, whether in the private or public spheres."

This kind of silencing also extends to the world of music composition. The amount of musical works composed by women that are performed on world stages is far less than those of men.

"We saw this concert as an opportunity to bring women's composed voices into the spotlight," Gorzelany-Mostak said.



Madi Hartly / Staff Photographer

Audience members listen to GC's Women's Ensemble.

Many students shared their support of the concert.

"My favorite song tonight was 'Effervescence,'" said junior Lindsey Graham, an exercise science major. "I absolutely loved the concert. I try to come out to as many of the music ensembles and concerts as I can."



Madi Hartly / Staff Photographer

The Women's Ensemble gives a special performance during Women's History Month.

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6:30 IN MSU 128**

Lady Bird: a review

**Florrie
McCard**
Staff Writer

The universe was truly at work when my usual staff meeting was canceled the night of March 6. Thanks to a collaboration between CAB and the GC Women's Center, this meant that instead of sitting around a table with an agenda as I do most Tuesdays, I found myself in Magnolia Ballroom with a plate of Chicken Minis and a Diet Coke as I prepared to finally uncover the great mystery that was "Lady Bird" as the clock approached 7:30 p.m.

"We really wanted to kick off Women's History Month with a bang," said Kat Sellars, program assistant of the Women's Center. "We picked 'Lady Bird' because it was an independent film that highlights the trials of a relationship between a mother and daughter, and a teenage girl struggling to find her

identity."

As the opening montage begins, Saoirse Ronan, who plays Lady Bird, says, "I wish I could live through something."

The year is 2002, and she lives in Sacramento, CA, which she thinks is the duller city imaginable. Lady Bird longs for the east coast, a place she believes real culture thrives.

Her given name is Catherine, but she tries her absolute hardest, despite resistance from her family and the school administration, to be called Lady Bird in all circumstances.

The film follows Lady Bird through her last year of high school. We see Lady Bird experience her first boyfriend, the school play and the dreaded college search process while navigating her own sense of self in the world and her role within her family.

What I was not prepared for were the ways in which "Lady Bird" struck a particular cord. As a graduate of an all-girls, Episcopal high school, the scenes of Lady

Bird attending Catholic school and chapel and pushing the boundaries of her uniform felt all too familiar.

Seeing the film as a senior in college, I was reminded of how those daily routines of high school, public or private, feel so permanent at the time. Lady Bird feels stuck in her daily routine. This is why the idea of living through something, anything, is so enticing.

One of the funniest, though irreverent, scenes is of Lady Bird and her best friend Julie lying on the ground snacking on communion wafers like they're Cheetos. They defend themselves to their disapproving classmates by saying that the wafers haven't been blessed yet, so their actions can't be too blasphemous.

The beauty of Lady Bird is that the most poignant moments are found in the absolutely mundane. In a rare calm scene between Lady Bird and her mother, they set out to do their favorite Sunday activity. The viewer is left to guess what this activity could be until the two

women walk into an open house in an affluent neighborhood.

By now, we know that Lady Bird and her mother cannot afford these homes, yet we watch as they walk through with gleaming smiles. It is one of their last moments of harmony before Lady Bird decides to strike out on her own.

At the root of the film is this relationship between a mother and a daughter. Lady Bird and her mother, played by Laurie Metcalf, struggle from the beginning of the film until the credits roll. The tension between Lady Bird's longing for independence and her mother's insecurities is one that feels both truthfully acted and deeply personal.

"I thought the movie was a great representation of how tumultuous teen years can be, as well as how a family can be affected by these years," said sophomore Catherine Maloney, an English and liberal studies major.

The one aspect of the film that caused me grief occurs about halfway through the story. Lady

Bird, much to my surprise, goes all Cady Heron from "Mean Girls" on her best friend Julie. I was frustrated that an otherwise outside-of-the-box film took such a stereotypical turn as Lady Bird leaves her real best friend in search of the ever elusive promise of popularity. I expected more from the film in that respect.

However, the best moments of "Lady Bird" are still the unexpected, untraditional moments. Lady Bird wishes she could live through something, and the question the film attempts to answer is how we define that "something." We learn that something does not have to be a war or a revolution. We all live through "something" of our own definition every single day.

"These themes are subtle and done in a way that provide an in-depth look at what could perceivably be the struggle of a real life individual," said sophomore Aaron Bellamy. "[Lady Bird is] a wonderful movie for anyone looking for something to think about."

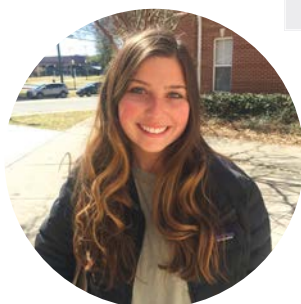


WHAT'S ON YOUR SPRING BREAK PLAYLIST?

Compiled by Florrie McCard

"Weak, Learn to Let Go,
FRIENDS, Never be the Same,
Chasing."

-Ally Eubanks, junior and
chemistry major



"Nothing special, I just listen
to whatever is on the radio."
-Hannah Elshami, freshman

"iSpy, Best Friend, The Anthem,
Dirt on My Boots, Mr. Blue Sky."
-Matt Wright, senior and marketing
major



"Saltwater, Chateau, Wiped out!,
Feels Great, Unbelievers"
-Rebecca Selem, senior and art
major



"Post Malone, Migos, Luke Bryan, Brett
Young, Kip Moore."
-Gracie Hamby, freshman, mass com-
munication major

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